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Amendment and Remarks In Response to Examiner Interview

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Please amend claims 70, 74, 80, 84, and 89 as follows.

81 70. (Amended) An isolated receptor which binds nucleotides, wherein said receptor comprises an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2.

82 74. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the receptor according to claim 70 or a complement thereof.

83 80. (Amended) An antisense probe having a sequence fully complementary to an isolated nucleic acid molecule as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.

84 84. (Amended) A method for determining whether a ligand can activate a receptor which binds nucleotides, wherein said receptor has an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:

84 preparing an extract from cells expressing the receptor;
isolating a membrane fraction from said extract;
contacting said membrane fraction with said ligand; and
assaying said membrane fraction for increased receptor activity, wherein increased activity indicates that said ligand is an activator of said receptor.

85 89. (Amended) A method for determining whether a ligand can specifically bind to a receptor having a preference for pyrimidine nucleotides over purine nucleotides, wherein said receptor has an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising the steps of:
preparing a cell which expresses the receptor;
contacting said cell with said ligand; and
assaying the activity of said receptor, wherein increased activity indicates that said ligand is an activator of said receptor.

86 93. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.